

NOTES AND NEWS.

Bro. Mason has a long speech to make this week. From it our readers will know something about the work he is doing.

We wonder whether some generous brother or sister will rise up soon and help brother Holsinger through with his work?

From an obituary awaiting publication, we learn that Bro. William Fisher of the Milford, Ind., congregation, died June 15th, aged about 61 years.

Bro. Forney, of Burr Oak, Kansas, lately held a successful revival in the North Solomon church, in Kansas. The good work continues in the west.

Bro. E. B. Shaver writes that at the lovefeast in Warren Co., Va., one was received by baptism, who was a consistent member of the United Brethren Church.

There is a general interest being shown in favor of a conference, and as it will be seen steps have been taken to unite with the Christian Brethren, the need of one is greater than ever.

This is a notable week for correspondence. Enthusiasm in this direction seems to have visited the whole brotherhood. As correspondence soon becomes old, we give our usual space to such matter.

Bro. H. E. Faidley, of Burr Oak, Kansas, has responded to brother Holsinger's call for some one to pay for the paper for brother Joseph Dubler, of Thornville, Ohio, who is almost helpless.

We will soon be through with the disarrangement occasioned by the S. S. Convention and absence during the A. M., and new labors put upon us, and some neglected things can receive more attention. We are able to sympathize with Bro. Mason.

We notice in brother A. A. Cober's article that sisters superintend his Sabbath school. This looks like a departure, but we are glad to hear it. The sisters ought to be encouraged to come forward and stand in the front rank of church workers.

Bro. J. M. Rittgers sends in a bid for the convention this week.

We believe Ashland has more inducements to offer than any other point. We have a building here with numerous rooms for States to hold private conferences, and then we are right in town, and have a large boarding hall which can be made to serve a valuable purpose.

Bro. Mason calls attention to our oversight in the report of the Ohio S. S. convention. We can not think how we missed giving the Executive Committee, but we did. Now brother, when you ascertain where the next convention is to be held, publish the names of the officers. We have not saved our notes, and we have forgotten who they are.

Bro. E. Hildebrand, who has been filling brother A. A. Cober's appointments, writes that he is getting along very well, and feels that he is growing fast in the service. This is news we love to hear. The church needs so many new laborers for the harvest that when news of another accession to the ministerial rank, promising efficiency and devotion, come, all

are glad. But then our field is enlarging more rapidly than our list of ministers, and the wants are greater than ever. May the Lord raise up other devoted workers.

DEAR EVANGELIST—I am young in the fold of Christ and this is my first for the master.

O wonderful salvation!
From sin he makes me free!
I feel the sweet assurance,
And that's enough for me!
O blood of Christ so precious,
Poured out on Calvary!
I feel its cleansing power,
And that's enough for me!

Your sister in Christ.

IDA F. STUTZMAN.

Elkhart, Ind.

Johnstown, Pa.

DEAR BRETHREN:—I see the suggestion in the B. E. that we have a general convention this fall, and I heartily approve of it and hope it may not end "in wind." We need it, firstly, because of its social advantages—and this is, I believe, the greatest of all advantages—secondly because of lack of system for carrying on our work. But are we ready for it? I believe we are not. We say in our "Declaration of principles," we will hold district and general conferences, etc. But we are not yet districted, and who can best do this? I believe we can do it in the respective states ourselves to the best advantage, and I therefore move we have a state convention for church work in connection with S. S. convention of what is now known as Western Pa., although it usually comprises all there is of the Brethren church of Pa.; and that steps be taken at once to this end. Let each church in Pa., be represented either by delegate or letter—former preferred—giving statistics, special wants, etc., and I farther suggest that Maryland represent with Pennsylvania, since there is but one organized church with in her limits.

I farther caution that we all remember this one fact: We are not wanting a convention to pass decisions, to regulate the conduct of members in the respective congregations on matters of externals, but to systematize work, give advice and experience to each other and define ourselves clearly on any doctrinal issue and be able to give statistics to inquirers. Whom will we hear on this matter? Can we have decisive and prompt action so as to be able to proceed and have our state convention in September? Who will speak first? Or will all speak at once.

R. Z. REPLOGLE.

From Bro. Cober.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—Owing to the occurrence of events which have already been almost hinted at, I have neglected a report from our corner of God's vineyard. Our meetings recently have already been reported and hence I need say nothing about them.

Our Sunday School is superintended by Sister Mary Deffenbaugh, who makes an active superintendent, and is assisted by Sister Barbara Helsler.

I left Ohio May 31st, and came to the Rosedale church, Johnstown, Pa., on June 9th. Preach over a week there. Had pleasant meetings. Seven united with the church. Among them were Joe Findley and Benj. Benshoff graduates of the Commercial Course

of Ashland College. Bro. Findley has taught in the Commercial Course at Ashland College during the past year. I believe some good material might be "scared up" for the ministry in the Rosedale church.

Sometime, somewhere, somehow, I became we, and we made our home at Bro. Benj. Benshoff's who treated us with much kindness. We made a number of friends both in the Rosedale and Johnstown congregations. Hope the Lord will bless them. Brethren R. Z. Replogle and Dan Crofford from Johnstown, and J. W. Smouse from Vinco, gave assistance in prayer and song. They are still full of the oldtime energy. But Johnstown and vicinity has an overplus of ministers from which the west should make a draft. It would do the west good and it would do Johnstown and vicinity good, now wouldn't it? There are men of ability there who should have wider scopes and who would do very material service in larger fields. More than ever do I see the necessity for a national convention. There are churches who are starving from the want of ministerial aid. Then there are also men in different parts of the brotherhood who would serve congregations if opportunity were given; but rather than force an opportunity they remain silent. Hence, the necessity for a convention to arrange some system by which our latent talent may be utilized. I might multiply arguments in favor of a convention; but I find that wherever I go, the sentiment is in favor of one. Might it not be prudent to have the opinions of representative men all over the brotherhood, so that arrangements for the convention may be perfected as soon as possible?

A. A. COBER.

Berlin, Pa.

A call for Preaching.

We, the members living near Palmer, Christian Co., Ill., belonging to the Auburn, Ill., Brethren Church, three of us, do earnestly beseech Bro. J. A. Ridenour to give us a call some time this fall and preach for us about one week, in September. We hope he will give us a call, as the people want preaching here and so do we. It is too far to go to Auburn very often. It is some 18 or 20 miles, and my wife has poor health. We have a good house to hold meeting in. There are some here who are counting the cost. They would like to hear the Brethren doctrine preached in this part of the country, let us hear from you through the B. E. We have a lively Sunday School here. We would like to build up a Brethren church here. There are a few Conservatives here yet. Let us go on with the good work since we have started out.

W. ARNOLD.

Palmer, Ill.

Why Join the Brethren Church.

I have a few reasons thrown together in tract form, but the idea struck me it would be a good thing to hear from others; hence I say, let every reader of this article send me on postal card or in letter, a good reason why a person seeking for a church home should join the Brethren church; or send the reason to the paper, just as you please. I have seven good reasons, but I want

more. Let's have them right away.

I sent out about two thousand specimen tracts this week; every order received will help send a package to some not able to buy, and where our literature is not scattered.

The Sunday school lesson for August 15th, if I mistake not, is on footwashing. That will be a splendid opportunity to scatter tracts on the subject. We have a four-page tract, containing nine reasons why we practice washing the Saint's feet. They will be sent to members of the Tract Society free, and to others as they may order. Remember that this subject will be studied by all Sunday schools using the lesson leaf; Baptist and Pedobaptist, and they can take no exception to tracts on the subject, which they study in open school. This is a golden opportunity to make a point. Any quantity can be furnished from a dime up.

JOHN D. MCFADEN.

Hagerstown, Md.

From Bear Creek, Ohio.

On Friday June 18th it was our privilege to meet with the good people of this church. At 5 p. m. We met at the Brick church where in December last we had many joyful meetings, and where some of those who then designated themselves as willing to enlist in the Lord's Army, were yet unbaptized. After the preliminary services we repaired to the water and baptized 5 precious jewels as the Lord has commanded. Later in the evening we tried to preach to a fair audience. Again on Saturday afternoon and in the evening we celebrated the ordinances of the Lord's house, the attendance was large. Quite a number of members observed the institutions for the first time since their connection with the church. The house was too small and on this account and for the want of a little precaution there was considerable of loud talking about the door. We would suggest to the Bear Creek Brethren for the future to place a man about the door to keep order. There are two classes he might be selected from.

1st One possessing moral influence who could persuade the boys to be quiet, and if this cannot afford a remedy, 2nd, One possessing legal authority, would be sure to teach them the necessary amount of good manners to conduct themselves properly at the house of God or stay away from it. But taking all in all we had a good meeting, and it did our souls good to see the beautiful order with which the large number of young members observed the ordinances.

On Sunday a. m. we preached to a large congregation, and in the evening the weather was somewhat threatening, and the night dark so there was only an ordinary attendance. On Monday in company with Brethren Mason and Ridenour we came to Dayton, where we had a very pleasant interview with the same number of Brethren and one sister of the church of the Brethren in Christ. An account of which will be sent for publication by Bro. Mason. During most of the time of our visit to Bear Creek we made our home with that modle Christian family of which Bro. A. Beeghly is the

head. We are sorry to say that Bro. B. was not able to attend all the meetings on account of sickness; he was however better when we left him on Thursday morning, with thanks for their kind hospitality. Arrived home in safety the same day. All well.

P. J. BROWN.

A Card.

Bro. Mason does us the kindness to excuse our severity in what we wrote about the annual meeting. We are glad to be chastised when we do what we should not. We feel that we have received what belongs to us, and we are always grateful for that.

But we are almost abashed over the notoriety he has given us as a Phrenologist, but not because we are ashamed of it. When we used to talk about it and pretend to be a professional character delineator, then that kind of notoriety was desirable. Now we desire to be more plain and common. But it seems necessary in this case to show that we only told what we observed to be the truth, according to natural evidence, without meaning even a shadow of disrespect, or giving vent to any feeling of revenge. The German Baptists are nearer to us and dearer than any other church besides our own—but we hate to see so much Christian enterprise tied up by three or four men, who are barren of spirituality.

As for character-reading, we here desire to say that that is our chief study and pastime, and always has been. We read God's character and men's character. We have no opportunity now to see God, but he has delineated it himself and gave it to us in the Bible, and we read it there, a portion daily, and that is our first and great study—to know and imitate, only we can not be so severe nor love so well.

Men we see and their character is written in their faces, their style and in the development of their brain, which is the source of loves, hates, passions, sentiments, intelligence, desires and dispositions. These developments are under the influence of the Will and we can make them vessels of honor or dishonor just as we choose, by exercising our own inherent powers and calling to our assistance satanic influences, or the influence of the Holy Spirit, and devotion to either eventually tells its own story on the person of the individual.

Phrenology as a study wonderfully broadened our charity toward our fellow-men, and directs our attention to our own many faults and deficiencies and excesses which cause us to do that which we would not. We look upon Phrenology, as did the great educator of Massachusetts who said: "It is the hand-maid to Christianity."

We frankly confess that we were disappointed in the character we expected to find in the leaders of the supporters of annual meeting. We looked for more true religious tendency. Now when we say leaders, we mean only a few men. We accepted the statements of our own brethren and the feeling that they manifested with a great degree of allowance; but when we looked at the men that opposed them and drove them out of the church, our allowance turned around toward our own brethren. This is a severe statement, but it applies to only a few persons. Many act badly, but they are followers and are true to their masters and inspirers.

The situation is just this. Take away from the head of that deliberative body several men and its whole character would be changed. Just behind them is a strong following who have the Lord's cause at heart, and are altogether conscientious in their desires. If they could realize the condition exactly, they would not stop where they are twenty-four hours. They were born to be ruled, but they do not know it, and, as it were, by accident, men who are born commanders and rulers control their power and influence. There are others whose intellects teach them differently, but they are patient, long-suffering, patriotic for the Christian cause they have espoused, are benevolent, lovers of peace, and desire to be obedient and respectful. They will not arise and incur the censure, endure the persecution to oppose those very few who seek their own glory, because they are not naturally possessed with the elements that give power to oppose. A grand illustration of this truth is furnished by the treatment of the sister's missionary enterprise. The fountain from which opposition to that movement came was completely selfish. The prime movers were afraid that the sisters would do a noble, grand Christian work, and get the credit for it as they would deserve; so they passed the decision that no bands should be organized, but that they should work in the church—not show an individuality and merit honor as a body of faithful workers. Now there were only a small following that favored this measure, but an opposer would have occasioned a spirited discussion and frown, and the report could not truly have been on with a ring of Christian peace; so for peace sake, they submitted. That decision made us indignant, even though it was none of our business; and we have not recovered fully from it yet.

We surmise some who are not personally acquainted with us took what was said about the elegant dresses as irony. We meant what our words implied in that relation. Our mother wears clothes that are perfectly in harmony with the order, and we esteem it the most elegant dress there is, and it is thoroughly Christian—but it is not Christianity by any means—and we will repel any insinuation that reflects disrespect upon her custom in this matter, even though we are foolish, which is one of choice with her, and not of force.

This finishes up annual meeting with us for ten months.

A. M. GARBEE.

Your Church.

Pastors and others who have charge of churches, are asked to send us statistics of the different organizations. Send the

1. Name.
2. When Organized.
3. Elder's and Deacon's address.
4. And statistics: number of members, value of church property, etc.